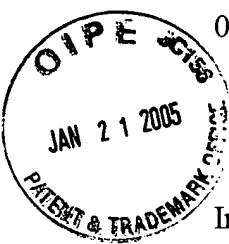


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PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
KEIICHI IWAMURA)	Examiner: S. Nakhjavan
Application No.: 09/867,432)	Group Art Unit: 2621
Filed: May 31, 2001)	
For: IMAGE PROCESSING)	
APPARATUS, IMAGE)	
PROCESSING METHOD, AND)	
STORAGE MEDIUM)	January 18, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This paper is being filed in response to the Office Action dated December 15, 2004, imposing a restriction requirement in the above-identified case. In the Office Action, the Examiner required restriction to claims directed to one of the following inventions:

- Group I: Claims 1, 12 and 16, directed to watermarking of a modified data, classified in class 713, subclass 176;
- Group II: Claims 2-5, 7, 10, 13, 14, 17, and 18, directed to watermarking into frequency components of an image data, classified in class 382, subclass 100;

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

January 18, 2005
(Date of Deposit)

Rehann A. Clayton (Reg. No. 26,718)
(Name of Attorney for Applicant)

Signature

January 18, 2005
Date of Signature

Group III: Claims 6, 8, 9, 11, 15 and 19, directed to watermarking into image data with preprocessing of bit data, classified in class 382, subclass 232; and

Group IV: Claims 20-28, directed to watermarking of image data with pixel block preprocessing, classified in class 348, subclass 468.

Applicant hereby provisionally elects, without traverse, Group I (Claims 1, 12, and 16), for initial prosecution on the merits.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


Ronald A. Clayton
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,718

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